UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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09/820,472	03/28/2001	Paul W. Bennett	5676-00100	5659

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>03 September 2004</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-28</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-28</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: The Amendment filed 09/03/04 to

the Application filed on 03/28/01.

2.   Claims 1-28 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Microsoft Excel 2000are pending in the case. Claims 1, 11, and 18 are independent

claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Microsoft Excel 2000 (pp. 1-11: Copyright 1985-1999).

-In regard to independent claims 1, 11, and 18, Excel 2000 teaches a method,

system, and computer program comprising:

a CPU, display screen, and memory;

displaying a window on the display screen (Fig. 1), wherein the window

comprises a plurality of fields arranged in a matrix having a plurality of rows

(Fig. 1: 1-16) and a plurality of columns (Fig. 1: A-H);

means for entering a first set of numeric values (Fig. 12: "10", "12", etc)

in a first plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: B7 & B9-B11), wherein the first

plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen

(Fig. 12: B7 & B9-B11) in a first column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is

column #1" character string which was columns B and C merged);

entering a first set of one or more mathematical operators (Fig. 12: "*",

"/", SUM(B9:B11), etc) in a first set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: C7

& C9-C11), wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar

format on a display screen (Fig. 12: C7 & C9-11) alongside the first plurality of

number fields (Fig. 12: B7 & B9-B11) in the first column (Fig. 12: Column

defined by "This is column #1" character string which was columns B and C

merged);

automatically (Fig. 11: Shows All Calculations Set to Automatic)

calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the

first set of numeric values (Reference Fig. 2 Field C5 and Fig. 3 Field C5,

wherein the numeric value was changed from 3 to 5 which automatically

calculated the new result value using the mathematical operator in C9 which sums

the values in C5-C8 with the result changing from 19 to 20);

and displaying the first result on the display screen (Fig. 1: C9 & C12);

means for entering a second set of numeric values (Fig. 12: "12", "14",

etc) in a second plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: E7 & E9-E11), wherein the

second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display

screen (Fig. 12: E7 & E9-E11), in a second column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #2" character string which was columns E and F merged);

entering a second set of one or more mathematical operators (Fig. 12: "*", "/", SUM(F9:F11) in a second set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: F7 & F9-F11), wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen (Fig. 12: F7 & F9-F11) alongside the second plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: E7 & E9-11) in the second column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #2" character string which was columns E and F merged);

automatically (Fig. 11: Shows All Calculations Set to Automatic) calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values (Reference Fig. 2 Field F5 and Fig. 3 Field F5, wherein the numeric value was changed from 7 to 10 which automatically calculated the new result value using the mathematical operator in F9 which sums the values in F5-F8 with the result changing from 34 to 37);

and displaying the second result on the display screen (Fig. 1: F9 & F12);.

-In regard to dependent claims 2, 12, and 19, Excel 2000 teaches displaying the first result (Fig. 1: C9) in the first column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #1" character string which was columns B and C merged);

and displaying the second result (Fig. 1: F9) in a second column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #2" character string which was columns E and F merged).

-In regard to dependent claims 3, 20, 21 Excel 2000 teaches entering a first

character string (Fig. 1: D6: "Comment1") which was associated with one of the

first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-C8);

displaying the first character string (Fig. 1: D6: "Comment1") in a

comment field adjacent (Fig. 1: D6) to the one of the first set of numeric values

(Fig. 1: C5-C8);

entering a second character string (Fig. 1: G6: "Comment1") which was

associated with one of the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F8); and

displaying the second character string (Fig. 1: G6: "Comment1") in a

comment field adjacent (Fig. 1: G6) to the number field associated with one of the

second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F8).

-In regard to dependent claims 4, 15, and 22, Excel 2000 teaches entering a first

numeric value (Fig. 5: "8") in a number field in an upper line (Fig. 5: C14);

automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line (Fig.

6: C15) after entering the first numeric value; and

entering a next numeric value (Fig. 6: "9") in the number field in the lower

line (Fig. 6: C15).

-In regard to dependent claims 5, 16, and 23, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the first

set of numeric values comprises at least one formula (Fig. 1: C9 comprises

formula SUM(C5:C8)).

-In regard to dependent claims 6, 17, and 24, Excel 2000 teaches the first set of

numeric values (Fig. 5: C5 & C8) comprises at least one reference (Fig. 5: See

Reference Arrows) to another numeric value in a field (Fig. 5: C12 which

comprises C8/C5).

-In regard to dependent claims 7, 25, Excel 2000 teaches entering character

strings in the first plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: C3-C9); and

entering character strings in the second plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: F5-F9).

-In regard to dependent claims 8, 26, Excel 2000 teaches determining a first set of

output character strings (Fig. 1: C9 & C12) based on the first set of numeric

values (Fig. 1: C9 & C12: "SUM(C5:C8)" & "C8/C5");

displaying the first set of output character strings in the first set of number fields

(Fig. 1: C9 & C12);

determining a second set of output character strings (Fig. 1: F9 & F12) based on

the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F9 & F12: "SUM(F5:F8)" & "F8/F5");

and

displaying the second set of output character strings in the second set of number

fields (Fig. 1: F9 & F12).

-In regard to dependent claims 9, 27, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the first column

comprises a first column label (Fig. 12: "This is column #1") displayed atop the

first column (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #1" character string

which was columns B and C merged), wherein the first column label substantially

spans at least combined width of the first plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: B7

& B9-B11) and the first set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: C7 & C9-

C11); and

wherein the second column comprises a second column label (Fig. 12:

"This is column #2") displayed atop the second column (Fig. 12: Column defined

by "This is column #2" character string which was columns E and F merged), and

wherein the second column label substantially spans at least a combined width of

the second plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: E7 & E9-E11) and the second set

of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: F7 & F9-F11).

-In regard to dependent claims 10, 28, Excel 2000 teaches wherein a first field

label (Fig. 12: "Number") was displayed atop the first plurality of number fields

(Fig. 12: B7 & B9-B11) and below the first column label (Fig. 12: "This is

column #1");

wherein a second field label (Fig. 12: "Operation") was displayed atop the

first set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: C7 & C9-C11), alongside the

first field label (Fig. 12: "Number"), and below the first column label (Fig. 12:

"This is column #1");

wherein a third field label (Fig. 12: "Number") was displayed atop the

second plurality of number fields (Fig. 12: E7 & E9-E11) and below the second

column label (Fig. 12: "This is column #2");

wherein a fourth field label (Fig. 12: "Operation") was displayed atop the

second set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 12: F7 & F9-F11), alongside the

third field label (Fig. 12: "Number"), and below the second column label (Fig. 12:

"This is column #2").

-In regard to dependent claims 13 and 14, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the user

input comprises a first character string (Fig. 1: C4: "First Column") which is

associated with one of the first set of input numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-C9);

displaying the first character string in a comment field in the first column

(Fig. 1: C4);

wherein the user input also comprises a second character string (Fig. 1: F4:

"Second Column") which is associated with one of the second set of input

numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F9); and

displaying the second character string in a comment field in the second

column (Fig. 1: F4).

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 09/03/04 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

In regard to the independent claims, the Applicant argues that Microsoft Excel

2000 fails to teach or suggest the newly amended feature wherein a first and second set of

operation fields are displayed in columnar format alongside the first and second plurality

of number fields in a first and second column. As shown above in the rejection, Excel

clearly shows the functionality wherein a first (Fig. 12: B7 & B9-B11) and second set

(Fig. 12: E7 & E9-E11) of a plurality of number fields was displayed alongside (i.e.

directly next) a first (Fig. 12: C7 & C9-C11) and second (Fig. 12: F7 & F9-F11) set of a

plurality of operation fields respectively in a first (Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is

column #1" character string which was columns B and C merged) and second column

(Fig. 12: Column defined by "This is column #2" character string which was columns E

and F merged) respectively. As shown in Fig. 12, when the "This is column #1" was

selected the identifiers for columns "B" and "C" were selected/activated as shown at the

top of the window, which further indicates that the data below the column header are

acting as one column. The same would hold true if the "This is column 2" column

heading was selected. Thus Excel teaches two sets of two types of fields being displayed

alongside one another in the same columns, wherein what was considered a "column"

was not solely limited to the "A", "B", "C", etc headers at the top of the window.

In regard to dependent claims 9 and 10, Applicant argues that Microsoft Excel

2000 fails to teach or suggest the newly amended feature wherein the first column label

substantially spans at least a combined width of the first plurality of number fields and

first set of one or more operation fields as well as failing to show or teach field labels

alongside each other underneath a column label spanning the two fields. The examiner

respectfully disagrees with the Applicant, and points to the above rejections of amended

claims 9 and 10.

The Examiner wishes to point out wherein the two sets of Excel screenshots differ

from each other in appearance (content and layout), the differences were used to show

functionality of the particularly amended features to the claims and that both sets, despite

their differences, embody the same functionality.

Conclusion

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of

time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than

SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

US-5,247,611	09-1993	Norden-Paul et al.
US-6,640,234	10-2003	Coffen et al.

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Adam L Basehoar whose telephone number is (571)-272-

4121. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:00am - 4:00pm.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Steve Hong can be reached on (703) 308-5465. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALB

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER